

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 141137Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2781

UNCLAS MANAMA 0151

NEA/EX CONNOLLY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ABUD, AFSP, BA

SUBJECT : ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR PEACE CORPS, USIS AND AID

REF : (A) MANAMA 150, (B) 75 MANAMA 1181

1. MANAMA 1181 OF OCTOBER 19, 1975 STILL HOLDS AS AN ASSESSMENT OF THE THINNESS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RANKS IN MANAMA. WHILE WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE JUNE 1974, WE STILL HAVE A BIT TO DO TO BRING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS LITTLE EMBASSY UP TO A REALLY GOOD FOREIGN SERVICE STANDARD. IN THE COMING FOUR MONTHS, AS WE SETTLE INTO THE NEW CHANCERY AND ABSORB AMERICAN PERSONNEL TURNS, WE HAVE SOME ADMINISTRATIVE TIDYING UP TO DO.

2. YET FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE PRESENT I WOULD HOPE WE COULD MOVE THROUGH THE SUMMER AND AT LEAST INTO FY 77 WITHOUT NEED OF ADDITIONAL STAFFING TO CARRY OUT THE STATE, REPEAT STATE, PROGRAMS IN BAHRAIN. OUR ABILITY TO DO SO WILL BE LARGELY INFLUENCED BY THE BREAKS WE GET FROM THE ASSIGNMENT PROCESS: SPECIFICALLY WHETHER FIRST INCUMBENT OF NEW VICE CONSUL POSITION ARRIVES PROMPTLY, WHETHER WE HAVE NO GAP IN THE SOPE AMERICAN SECRETARY POSITION, WHETHER OUR NEXT ADMIN/C&R ASSISTANT KUTSMEDA SHOWS A FLAIR FOR GSO WORK, AND WHETHER RON MAIN'S REPLACEMENT AS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER COMES TO US NOT ONLY WITH SOME BREADTH OF EXPERIENCE BUT ALSO WITH A FIRM

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GRASP OF B&F WORK. WITH SUCH LUCK, AND A LITTLE MORE, WE SHOULD

BE ABLE TO KEEP THE COST INCREASES OF STATE ACTIVITIES IN BAHRAIN DOWN TO THE MINIMUM DICTATED BY RISING LOCAL COSTS, INCLUDING THE URGENT NEED TO RAISE LOCAL EMPLOYEE SALARIES (SEPTTEL).

3. WHAT WE CLEARLY CANNOT DO, HOWEVER, IS ABSORB THE ARRIVAL OF USIS, PEACE CORPS AND AID WITH OUR PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES. AS BEST WE CAN GUESS FROM THIS END, WE EXPECT THE FOLLOWING: (A) PERHAPS AS EARLY AS MARCH, USIS WILL OPEN RESIDENT OFFICE IN CHANCERY WITH ONE AMERICAN OFFICER AND INITIALLY ONE LOCAL EMPLOYEE; (B) AS EARLY AS APRIL, PEACE CORPS WILL SET UP A RESIDENT STAFF (A DIRECTOR AND ONE "LOCAL EMPLOYEE" ASSISTANT) IN ANTICIPATION OF BUILDING PROGRAM IN BAHRAIN UP TO AS MANY AS FORTY VOLUNTEERS BEFORE END OF FY 76; AND (C) BY SUMMER, AID WILL HAVE SENT OUT AT LEAST THE FIRST FIVE OF THE TEN TECHNICAL ADVISORS WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDE BAHRAIN.

4. OUR PROBLEM HERE IS THAT NONE OF THESE PROGRAMS IS PRESENTLY FIRM IN EITHER TIMING OR DETAIL OF OPERATION AND THE DECISIONS OF COURSE ARE BEING MADE NOT IN BAHRAIN BUT IN WASHINGTON. HENCE EX WILL BE IN POSITION TO COORDINATE WITH AGENCIES CONCERNED TO DETERMINE WHAT OUR SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR THESE PROGRAMS WILL BE BEFORE THEY BECOME OPERATIVE, WHILE WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT IT FROM HERE. TO THE EXTENT OUR GUESSING IS OF HELP, WE FORESEE FOLLOWING IMPACT ON EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS: (A) I AM FAIRLY CONFIDENT WE CAN ABSORB ADDITION OF USIS BY ITSELF ON THE GSO AND C&R SIDES (WITH PERHAPS SOME ADDITIONAL CONTRACT SERVICES FUNDED THROUGH SAS BUDGET) BUT I AM LESS CERTAIN WE CAN MANAGE ON THE B&F SIDE WITHOUT SOME TDY HELP ON A RECURRENT BASIS; (B) PEACE CORPS BY ITSELF WILL IMPOSE APPROXIMATELY SAME BURDEN AS USIS. THE TWO TOGETHER WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE LOCAL (PROBABLY ON GSO SIDE) AND CREATE DEFINITE NEED FOR AT LEAST REGULARLY SCHEDULED TDY OR REGIONAL SUPPORT IN B&F WORK; (C) AID IS MOST DIFFICULT OF THREE TO GET A HANDLE ON, IN PART BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER ADVISORS WILL BE STAFF OR CONTRACT EMPLOYEES. WE CAN NOW ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT GOB WILL PROVIDE HOUSING AND FURNISH IT TO A MINIMAL STANDARD AND SEE TO ALL OF OFFICE NEEDS OF ADVISORS. WE CAN ALSO ASSUME THAT

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ALL OTHER SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (SUCH AS SHIPMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS WITH WASHINGTON, PAY AND ALLOWANCES, TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS, MEDICAL SUPPORT, PERSONNEL RECORDS, AND EMERGENCY HOUSING MAINTENANCE) WILL FALL ON EMBASSY. THIS SUGGESTS TO ME THAT WE WILL NEED (1) TDY ASSISTANCE OF AN AID ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO GET PROGRAMS STARTED RIGHT; (2) SOME ADDITIONAL LOCAL CONTRACT SERVICES COVERED BY SAS BUDGET; (3) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF B&F OFFICER POSITION; AND (4) PERHAPS AN ADDITIONAL LOCAL POSITION

IN ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION.

5. WE HOPE TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS MORE FULLY WITH VIRGINIA SCHAFER DURING HER MARCH STOP IN BAHRAIN. IN MEANTIME, WE ARE LOOKING TO EX TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH USIA, PEACE CORPS AND AID AND TO ADVISE US ON BASIS DEPARTMENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE AGENCIES WHAT OUR ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT REQUIREMENTS MIGHT BE. IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE IN THIS SITUATION FOR SAS-1 AGREEMENTS TO BE WORKED OUT IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN AT POST.

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